



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Ocean Plan – Board prepares draft Triennial Review workplan – Both federal and State law require a review of the water quality standards in the Ocean Plan at least once every three years. The purpose of this triennial review is to ensure the continued adequacy of these standards. The State Water Resources Control Board initiated the 2004-2007 review with a public hearing on May 24, 2004. The State Board staff has now prepared a workplan that identifies the issues to be addressed during this review cycle. As issues are resolved, the Board will amend the Ocean Plan, as necessary, following procedures that include public hearings.

Of the 25 issues raised in the May 24 hearing, the Board staff identified eleven as “high priority”:

- Fecal Coliform Standard for Shellfish – *in addition to current total coliform standard*
- Control of Ballast Water Discharges and Invasive Species – *add vessel waste requirements*
- Review Table B Chemical WQ Objectives – *possibly add a few new objectives*
- Regional Ambient WQ Monitoring – *an ecosystem-wide approach to WQ monitoring*
- Standard Monitoring & Reporting Requirements – *builds on ongoing standardization effort*
- Control of Stormwater Discharges – *would include evaluation of ASBS impacts*
- Nonpoint Source Control – *would also evaluate ASBS impacts*
- Expression of Metals in OP – *clarify that standards apply to “total recoverable” metals*
- Suspended Solids Regulation in Table A – *would tighten TSS standard; may impact construction site runoff*
- Plastic Debris Regulation – *identify current requirements; modify, as necessary*
- Acute Toxicity Definition – *update of previous definition*

The draft workplan notes that most issues concerning *Areas of Special Biological Significance* (ASBS) are considered resolved based on the relatively minor changes to the Ocean Plan ASBS provisions adopted in April, 2005. Board staff plans to request workplan approval at the Nov. 2, 2005 Board meeting. Posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/docs/trirev20052008.pdf>

Enforcement – San Diego area cities receive notices of violation (NOV) – The San Diego Regional Board sent out letters to at least 15 cities within San Diego county and to the county itself threatening enforcement and possible fines for inadequate implementation of stormwater controls. Some of the cities have objected to the approach and tone of the Regional Board letter and have responded with their own letters. The current permit, Order 2001-01, was very contentious from the beginning and the subject of a lawsuit that ended in an appeal to the California Supreme Court. However, the permit received national recognition when the Board’s stormwater program received EPA’s 2004 Environmental Award for Environmental Achievement. Contact fkrieger@msn.com for a copy of the NOV and the Executive Officer’s report on the upcoming permit renewal. Article: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20050912-9999-1m12runoff.html> .

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>